

December 15th, 2024 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Roman Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist Parish

Administered by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

4050 Durham Road, Ottsville, PA 18942

Phone 610-847-5521 * Fax 610-847-5522 * www.stjohnsottsville.org



3rd Sunday of Advent

*'Rejoice & be glad for Jesus
will soon be born.'*

☑ This candle has also been referred to as the "Shepherds' Candle" as we collectively imagine what incredible joy these humble peasants must have felt when they were heralded by the angels with "Gloria in Excelsis Deo!"

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING MASS WITH US TODAY.

WE ARE GLAD YOU CAME!

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Selvaraj Lucas, M.S.C.
Director of Religious Education: Mary Ann Corcoran
Finance Manager: Carolyn Marchese
Parish Secretary: Rebecca Tirpok
Bulletin/Website: Carolyn Marchese
Facilities Manager: Thomas Rimmer

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am
Mon- Fri: 9:00am (Thursday at old St. John's Church)
Holy Days: 9:00am & 7:00pm
CONFESSION: Saturdays 4:15pm - 4:45pm or by appt.

Register in the Parish: Please contact the Parish Office to register when you move into our parish.

Certificates of Eligibility: May be issued only to registered parishioners who currently reside within our parish boundaries, who have been registered parishioners at least six months, are 16 yrs. and older, who have received all their Sacraments of Initiation, and are actively practicing their faith in our parish.

BAPTISMS: The Sacrament of Baptism may be scheduled to take place on a Saturday at 10am or 11am; or on a Sunday following at 11:45am. Parents and at least one Godparent are to attend our Enrichment class prior to the Baptism. You will need to call the Parish Office to register for this class. Godparents must be committed, practicing Catholics, over the age of 16, and if from another parish, must provide a *Certificate of Eligibility* from their pastor. A Christian of another denomination may serve as a Christian Witness alongside a Catholic Godparent.



MARRIAGE: The Sacrament of Matrimony Mass may be celebrated no later than 1pm on Saturdays. Couples planning marriage are to contact the Parish Office & schedule a meeting with our Pastor no later than 6 months in advance of the planned wedding date. Couples are to attend a Pre-Cana program approved by our Diocese.



ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please call the Parish Office at any time to request a visit from our Pastor for Anointing of the Sick. Communion will be brought to the sick and homebound by our Pastor or one of our Communion Ministers upon request. We celebrate a Communal Anointing of the Sick in June, near the *Feast of St. John the Baptist*.



Mass Intentions

Week of December 16th – December 22nd, 2024

Monday: + Sandy Slater (*Laura Gumprecht*)
Tuesday: Intentions of Chris Leahy (*Family*)
Wednesday: + Mary "Vicky" Pepkowski
(*Nephew John Kuklinski*)
Thursday: + Purita Dayawon (*Jim & Cristina McHugh*)
Friday: + Bill Saxton (*Jim & Cristina McHugh*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm: Intentions of Eileen Carlineo
(*Dominic & Nina*)
Sunday 8am: + Jack Glancey (*Peg Glancey*)
Sunday 10:30am: Parishioners' Intentions

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon–Fri 9am–5pm

To plan a Baptism, Wedding, Funeral, private Confession, please contact our Pastor, Fr. Selvaraj Lucas through the Parish Office.

WEEKLY MASS COLLECTIONS

December 8th - Not Available



WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Sun. Dec 15: Advent Bible Study – Marian Rm – 9:15am
Mon. Dec 16: Knights of Columbus – School Gym – 7:30pm
Tue. Dec 17: Choir Practice – Church - 7pm
Wed. Dec 18: Flame of Love - Chapel – 8am
Wed. Dec 18: Intercessory Prayer – Zoom - 6:30pm

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

O Jesus! My Lord and My God! I trust in you, O Prince of Peace!
I pray that you will help all people of this world
to be united as one with You as Our Lord and Savior!
Jesus, I trust in You!



Please consider a leaving a legacy to St. John the Baptist Parish. A gift to SJB in your will enables you to support the Church and makes a difference in the lives of future generations. *Thank you. God bless.*

FROM YOUR PASTOR

The Mother Church today celebrates Gaudete Sunday, namely Rejoice Sunday. The Church eagerly awaits Jesus' coming with immense joy which is now the midway mark of Advent. This marks the commencement of the O Antiphons, which are the seven gemstones of our liturgy. These O antiphons which trace back to the 4th century are specifically reserved for each day until Christmas Eve – which addresses Christ with seven magnificent Messianic titles, based on the Old Testament prophecies and attributes of Christ.

The theme of the readings today focuses on joy. This joy is closely connected with salvation. The responsorial psalm of the day is from the gospel of Luke. It is the Magnificat, Mary's song of praise for the wonders God has worked through all ages. Here, too, joy is that of God's salvation unfolding in history. Paul in the second reading highlights the theme of joy, where one has to live in joy and the peace of God which will not only surpass all understanding but will guard one's hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, keeping in mind that the Lord may come anytime and that the Lord is near. Therefore, Paul invites us to rejoice in the Lord, be gentle to all and not to worry about anything.

Joy is not self-centered; rather, it finds fulfillment in serving others. The alphabets of the word J-O-Y seemingly refer, first, to Jesus, then, to others, finally, to you. Hence let us rejoice in Christ who is with us and therefore he is 'near'!

Sincerely in Our Lord

REV. S. LUCAS MSC

Pastor, St. John the Baptist Parish

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide us to our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen



PRAYERS TO ST. PEREGRINE

Every Tuesday morning, following the 9am Mass, we will be praying to St. Peregrine for those who are suffering from cancer and other diseases.

Please join us in praying for all who are suffering.

Holy Communion for the Sick & Homebound



Are you or a family member unable to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion? If you'd like to receive Holy Communion, please call the Parish Office at 610-847-5521.

We will make arrangements to bring the Lord to you.

NEXT SUNDAY

Please help decorate our church for Christmas



We are in need of volunteers to help decorate for Christmas. If you would like to help, Christmas decorating will follow the 10:30 Mass on December 22nd. If you wish to help, please call Joan Black at 215-795-2947. (If you get the answering machine and it says Fatima House, you didn't get the wrong number!)

Thank you & God Bless, Joan

**THIS WEEKEND!
PARISH SOCIAL AFTER MASS
PLEASE STOP BY!**



This weekend we'll have a Parish Social after each Mass. All are welcome to stay, enjoy hospitality & get to know your church family. Hope to see you!



We will be selling gift cards after all Masses in the narthex to meet all your Christmas shopping needs. Cards are available for gifts, groceries, department stores & dining. Thank you for supporting our church! God Bless!

PREP PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religion Classes for Children who attend Public School, or non-Catholic Private School, are held on Monday evenings, September to May at St. John the Baptist Parish from 6:15PM-7:30PM. Parents of New Students (1st graders or students who have never attended Religious Education at SJB) should contact the Religious Education Office at prep@stjohnsottsville.org or 610-847-5521 to arrange an appt. to register. To register a New Student, parents need the child's Birth Certificate & Baptism Certificate (unless baptized at SJB), Fee of \$200 for one child for PREP for year.



**Join the
Cleaning Team!**

**Wk. of December 15th
TEAM 4**

This is a once per month commitment.



MINI CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Please visit the Bazaar! All proceeds will be used for the maintenance of SJB. Thank you!

**PLEASE CONTACT KIM ZAMPIRRI @
215-260-7592**



**THE
LORD'S
PANTRY
Giving
Tree**

ALL gifts need to be in the form of gift cards. Unwrapped gift cards must have the original "Gift Tag" taken off the tree attached to the wrapping for identification purposes.

Walmart & Giant gift cards can be purchased through the Parish Office.

Gifts need to be placed back under the tree by this Sunday, December 15th.

Thank you and God Bless!

Dear Friends of The Lord's Pantry-



During December, would you please consider donating **tea, coffee, pineapple slices, yams, flour and sugar**. These products will not only benefit our struggling families affected by the increased prices of staple products but help them enjoy a Blessed Christmas. We believe that with God's blessings and the help of our community, we can show our support for those most in need. Thank you for your generosity!

God bless, The Lord's Pantry Volunteers

SJB NITTY GRITTY GARDEN CLUB



Dear Friends -

**Thank you for supporting our
Christmas Poinsettia & Wreath Sale.
God's Blessings be upon you!**

DECEMBER MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

The Evangelization Ministry



**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
FEAST DAY – DECEMBER 12TH**

Our Lady of Guadalupe, in Roman Catholicism, the Virgin Mary in her appearance before St. Juan Diego in four visions in 1531. The name also refers to the Marian apparition itself. Our Lady of Guadalupe holds a special place in the religious life of Mexico and is one of the most popular religious devotions. Her image, of a woman of mixed Indigenous and European features (mestiza) wearing a turquoise-colored mantle surrounded by a sunburst, has played an important role as a national symbol of Mexico.

In 1737 Our Lady of Guadalupe was proclaimed patroness of Mexico City, and in 1746 her patronage was accepted by all the territories of New Spain, which included part of present-day California as well as Mexico and regions as far south as Guatemala and El Salvador. In 1754 Pope Benedict XIV approved her patronage and granted her a proper feast and mass for December 12. Pope Pius X proclaimed her patroness of Latin America in 1910 and in 1935 Pius XI approved her patronage over the Philippines. Veneration of Our Lady of Guadalupe has been particularly strong among women, especially in Mexico, and since at least the early 18th century the devotion was spread throughout the world by the Jesuits and other religious

PASTORAL COUNCIL

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- Mike Kirk - Finance Council Representative

FINANCE COUNCIL

- Father Lucas - Chairman
- Mike Kirk - President/Moderator
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Sunday, December 15 @ 4:00 pm

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WEDNESDAY MORNING 10AM-11AM. Our Lady's Chapel

THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

12PM-1PM. ST. Joseph's Chapel (large chapel, name on front of the building)

FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

BEGINS AT 10AM Mass, Rosary, Confession and Luncheon (free).

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER.

To schedule your retreat and for additional information please call Joan Black at 215-795-2947

~SAVE THE DATE~ "Live the Mass"

ENCORE Women's Retreat at Czestochowa Shrine.
Friday Eve, March 28th to Sunday afternoon, March 30th, 2025

DECEMBER 21ST & 22ND, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 5PM	Laura Gumprecht Lisa Saxton Need 1 Volunteer	Jane Ferry	Blake & Max Nowicki Christine Wimpenny	Fred Furmaniak Liz Torgerson
SUNDAY 8AM	Jackie Butler Nina Carlineo Tom Keller	Jeanne Keller	Alaina Butler Need 2 Volunteers	Sue Rogers SJB Choir
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Frank Balbier Wendy DeGroot Patty Salva	Leona Russell	Julia & Alyssa Byers Gretchen Meyers	Ordinary Time



PLEASE PRAY FOR...



OUR SICK:

Jessie Alfaro, Lou Bucci, Baby Conner & his Parents, Roger Bahnck Sr., John Becker, Wanda Bickel, Loretta Bodisch, Lillian Buckley, Eileen Carlineo, Katie Carty, Steve & Patty Combs, Maryanne Comly, Lou Cooper, Maria D'Angelo, Barbara Docs, Marvin Eichlin, Joe Fekete, Betty Fleck, Ron Freeland, Gabriella Froehlich, Jean Furmaniak, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Peg Glancey, Kathy & Mark Hancharik, Maryann Hauber, Sylvia Holznagel, Sheila Haney Kaisen, Steve Katra, John Klinges, Pat Kreschollek, Chris Leahy, Mark Leidtke, Nate Leidtke, Ray Malachowski, Roseann McCarty, Xavier McDonald, Bridget McHugh, Joyce Melchiorre, Michael Moreni, Kay Mule, Nancy Moreno, Helene Nastro, Jimmy O'Hanlon, Jeff Olimpo, Robert Parash, Erin Rogers Pickering, Janet Reidler, Fr. Tony Ripp, MSC, Barbara Sabath, Adriana Salvucci, Thomas Shepherd, Megan Slabicki, Bella Sosa, Tony Souza, Bernadette Strzelecki, Simon Tirpok, Fr. Joseph Tobias, MSC, Bambina Ventresca, Helen Wall, Ed Wismer, Judy Woodroffe

If you would like a prayer shawl for yourself or for someone you know, please call the Parish Office at 610-847-5521 or email tojo@epix.net.

If someone no longer needs prayers, please advise the Parish Office so that we may keep the list up to date.

OUR TROOPS:

Jamie Steven Ayuso, Fionna M. Boyle, Derek Brosius, Christopher Brune, Kyle Crossland, David Fisher, Anthony J. Fleck, Joseph V. Fleck, Michael Froeder, A.J. Giovino, Aaron Given, Michael Griffin, Matthew Gumprecht, Bob Hankinson, Victor Hormilla, Aileen Lauer, Stephen Lindmeier, Dan O'Connor, McKenna Pason, Dusty Rhodes, Steven Salva, Kate Salva, Jack Salva, Ann Salva, Steven Siegert, Kendall Smith



May God protect and watch over our troops.



A Prayer for OUR FIRST RESPONDERS:

Lord, please watch over all the men & women who work as first responders. We pray for their safety and that they return to their families at the end of each shift. We give thanks for their selfless service, compassion and care for everyone. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen



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